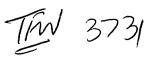
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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0851-0031
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Application Number 10/051322-Conf. #7967 Filing Date **TRANSMITTAL** January 18, 2002 First Named Inventor **FORM** Frederic P. Field Art Unit 3731 (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) **Examiner Name** G. K. Dawson Attorney Docket Number Total Number of Pages in This Submission D0188.70166US01 10 ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication Drawing(s) Fee Transmittal Form to TC Appeal Communication to Board of Fee Attached Licensing-related Papers Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC X Amendment/Reply Petition (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition to Convert to a Proprietary Information After Final Provisional Application Power of Attorney, Revocation Affidavits/declaration(s) Status Letter Change of Correspondence Address Other Enclosure(s) (please **Extension of Time Request** Terminal Disclaimer Identify below): Return Receipt Postcard **Express Abandonment Request** Request for Refund Information Disclosure Statement CD, Number of CD(s) Certified Copy of Priority Landscape Table on CD Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts/ Remarks Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Name WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C. Signature Printed name Walt Norfleet Date Reg. No.

967696.1

December <u>1</u>, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.
Dated: December 2005 Signature: / Luta G Section (Rita A. LeBlanc)

52,078



Docket No.: D0188.70166US01

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Frederic P. Field et al.

Serial No.:

10/051322

Confirmation No.:

7967

Filed:

January 18, 2002

For:

SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE

Examiner:

G. K. Dawson

Art Unit:

3731

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below

Dated: December 1,2005

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated September 14, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.